

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing web services, comprising:
a plurality of web servers capable of hosting web browsing sessions, each session having session data associated therewith, each web server operable to:
store all of the session data for each session hosted by the web server; and
host each session without accessing session data from a remote location unless the web server is hosting the session for another web server that has failed;
a local director connected to a communications link and to the web servers, wherein the local director routes requests, each associated with a session, from remote browsers to a web server hosting the associated session; and
a remote session server connected to the web servers, wherein the remote session server contains a copy of all session data for all sessions on all web servers.
2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein each web server has a local cache of session data for all sessions hosted on that web server.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the remote session server comprises at least two separate remote session servers, ~~and wherein~~ each separate remote session server ~~contains~~ storing a copy of the session data for a subset of the web browsing sessions.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 3, wherein each separate remote session server ~~contains~~ stores session data for a subset of web browsing sessions that does not overlap the subset of any other separate remote session server.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 3, wherein at least one of the separate remote session servers ~~contains~~ stores session data for a subset of web browsing sessions that overlaps the subject of at least one other separate remote session server.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for providing web session services, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

connecting each of a plurality of web sessions to a corresponding one of a plurality of web servers, each web server hosting a plurality of the web sessions;

on each web server, caching all session data for each session hosted on that web server and hosting each session without accessing the session data from a remote location unless the web server is hosting the session for another web server that has failed; and

copying all cached session data on every web server to a remote session server.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

when a web server goes down, transferring the sessions that such web server was hosting to others of the web servers; and

for each transferred session, copying session data for that session from the remote session server to a web server to which the session was transferred.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein:

the remote session server comprises at least two separate remote session servers, ~~and wherein servers; and~~

~~the copying step comprises the step of~~ copying the session data for every web session to one of the separate remote session servers, wherein each separate remote session server maintains a copy of a selected subset of the web sessions.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, further comprising, ~~the step of~~ when a separate remote session server goes down, for each web session for which a copy ~~if of~~ its session data was maintained on such separate remote session server, copying the session data for those sessions from the web servers hosting those sessions to another of the separate remote session servers.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein the selected subsets for the separate remote session servers overlap, ~~wherein~~ and each web session is copied to two different separate remote session servers.

11. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein:
when a particular web server fails, the local director is operable to assign the sessions being hosted by the particular web server to one or more different web servers; and
the remote session server is operable provide the session data for the sessions being hosted by the particular web server to the one or more different web servers.

12. (New) The system of Claim 11, wherein the different web server comprises a standby web server operable to handle sessions of web servers that have failed.

13. (New) The method of Claim 6, further comprising:
when a particular web server fails, assigning the sessions being hosted by the particular web server to one or more different web servers; and
providing, from the remote session server, the session data for the sessions being hosted by the particular web server to the one or more different web servers.

14. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the different web server comprises a standby web server operable to handle sessions of web servers that have failed.

15. (New) Software for providing web session services, the software being embodied in one or more computer-readable media and when executed using a computer system operable to:

connect each of a plurality of web sessions to a corresponding one of a plurality of web servers, each web server hosting a plurality of the web sessions;

on each web server, cache all session data for each session hosted on that web server and host each session without accessing the session data from a remote location unless the web server is hosting the session for another web server that has failed; and

copy all cached session data on every web server to a remote session server.

16. (New) The software of Claim 15, further operable to:

when a web server goes down, transfer the sessions that such web server was hosting to others of the web servers; and

for each transferred session, copying session data for that session from the remote session server to a web server to which the session was transferred.

17. (New) The software of Claim 15, wherein:

the remote session server comprises at least two separate remote session servers; and

copying comprises copying the session data for every web session to one of the separate remote session servers, wherein each separate remote session server maintains a copy of a selected subset of the web sessions.

18. (New) The software of Claim 17, further operable to, when a separate remote session server goes down, for each web session for which a copy of its session data was maintained on such separate remote session server, copy the session data for those sessions from the web servers hosting those sessions to another of the separate remote session servers.

19. (New) The software of Claim 17, wherein the selected subsets for the separate remote session servers overlap and each web session is copied to two different separate remote session servers.

20. (New) The software of Claim 15, further operable to:
when a particular web server fails, assign the sessions being hosted by the particular web server to one or more different web servers; and
provide, from the remote session server, the session data for the sessions being hosted by the particular web server to the one or more different web servers.

21. (New) The software of Claim 20, wherein the different web server comprises a standby web server operable to handle sessions of web servers that have failed.

22. (New) A system for providing web services, comprising:
means for connecting each of a plurality of web sessions to a corresponding one of a plurality of web servers, each web server hosting a plurality of the web sessions;
means for, on each web server, caching all session data for each session hosted on that web server and hosting each session without accessing the session data from a remote location unless the web server is hosting the session for another web server that has failed;
and
means for copying all cached session data on every web server to a remote session server.